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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/834,253	04/12/2001	Yashavantkumar J. Asher	Sorrento-Asher et a.	2733

7590 10/31/2006
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EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1761

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/834,253

Applicant(s)

ASHER ET AL.

Examiner

Leslie Wong

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

This office action replaces the action mailed July 26, 2004 and restarts the response time period.

There are no rejections under 35 USC 112.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dupas et al in view of Miller et al, Carpenter et al, and McMahon et al for the reasons set forth in rejecting the claims in the last Office action. The amendments to the claims are not seen to influence the conclusion of unpatentability previously set forth.

Dupas et al disclose a co-extruded composite cheese product (see entire document).

The claims differ as to the use of additional components.

Miller et al disclose a cheese comprising starch and maltodextrin (see entire patent, especially claims 1, 3, 6, 10 and 11)

Carpenter et al disclose a cheese composition comprising starch and a hydrocolloid stabilizer such as xanthan and locust bean gum (see entire patent, especially claims 1, 3, and 4).

McMahon et al disclose cheese comprising starches and gums as stabilizers (see entire patent, especially claims 1, 5, and 7).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use any of the stabilizers taught by Miller et al, Carpenter et al, and McMahon et al in that of Dupas et al because the use of stabilizers in cheese products is well-known and within the skill of the art. The stabilizers are used for no more than their art-recognized function.

Applicant's arguments filed March 22, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach a natural cheese, the use of a stabilizer in a non-cheese core normally flowable at room temperature, or a core that does not flow, leak, or migrate during processing, shipping, or storage.

The prior art clearly teaches co-extruded cheese products. The selection and use of a natural cheese is merely a matter of choice and well-within the skill of the art. Miller et al, Carpenter et al, and McMahon et al clearly teach the use of stabilizers in cheese compositions. Clearly, the presence of starch, maltodextrin, and colloids, which are all thickeners/ bulking agents, decreases the flowability/leakage/migration of the core. Applicant's claims do not define over that of the prior art.

All of Applicant's claimed components are taught by the prior art. It is not seen where Applicant obtains anything other than expected results.

Applicant's claims are directed to a product where the process disclosed in the specification is not claimed.

The recitation that the product is made by a new process, if the process were indeed new and patentable, does not render an otherwise unpatentable product new and patentable. It is pointed out that the claims are product claims and not process claims. The product must stand on its own invention, independently of the process of producing same. See *In re Marosi*, 218 USPQ 195; *In re Thorpe*, 227 USPQ 964; *Ex parte Jungfer*, 18 USPQ 2nd 1976.

In the absence of a showing of unexpected results, it is not seen how the claimed invention differs from the teachings of the prior art. Applicant's claims are drawn to a combination of known components which produces expected results, see *In re Kerkhoven* 205 USPQ 1069 and *In re Gershon* 152 USPQ 602.

All of the claim limitations and arguments have been considered. None of them are seen as serving as basis for patentability.

No claim is allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is 571-272-1411. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leslie Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leslie" and last name "Wong" clearly distinguishable.

Leslie Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1761

LAW
October 27, 2006